

20 MAR 1950

BOROUGH OF DORCHESTER

Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough of Dorchester for the year 1949.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dorchester.

VITAL STATISTICS. The latest figures available are those for the year 1948, so it is to that year that the figures under this heading relate.

Estimated Population = 11,050

Total Births = 166

Total Deaths = 124

Live Births = 162

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 14.6

Total Birth Rate " " " " " = 15.0

	Males	Females	Total.
Legitimate . . .	75	79	154
Illegitimate . . .	4	4	8
Still Births = 4.			
Legitimate . . .	1	3	4
Deaths of Infants under One year of Age = 6			

	Males	Females
Legitimate . . .	3	3
Illegitimate . . .	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate, all Infants per 1,000 live births = 37.0

Ditto all England and Wales = 34.

Ditto 148 Smaller Towns in England and Wales = 32.

<u>DEATH RATE</u>	per 1,000 estimated resident population	= 11.2
Ditto	for England and Wales	= 10.8
Ditto	for 148 Smaller Towns in England & Wales	= 10.7

<u>DEATHS:-</u>		2.	
Causes of Death		Males	Females
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
7.	Tuberculosis, other forms	-	1
13.	Cancer of Uterus (Female). Mouth or Throat (male)	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach & duodenum	2	3
15.	Cancer of Breast . . .	-	2
16.	Cancer of other sites . . .	9	4
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.	6	6
19.	Heart Disease . . .	25	19
20.	Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	-
21.	Bronchitis . . .	-	5
22.	Pneumonia . . .	-	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases . . .	2	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum . . .	1	-
27.	Digestive Diseases (other than Appendicitis) . . .	2	2
28.	Nephritis . . .	-	5
31.	Premature Birth . . .	1	3
32.	Congenital malformation, etc. . .	2	-
33.	Suicide . . .	2	-
34.	Road Traffic Accidents. . .	1	-
35.	Other Violent Causes . . .	1	2
36.	All Other Causes . . .	5	4
Total		63	61

1949

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Summary. The following (civilian) cases were notified:-

Acute Poliomyelitis . . .	1
Erysipelas . . .	1
Malaria, recurrent . . .	1
Measles . . .	124
Pneumonia, Acute Primary. . .	2
Pneumonia, Influenzal . . .	2
Scarlet Fever . . .	4
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary . . .	7
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary . . .	4
Whooping Cough . . .	17
Total	163

Total Cases on the Register under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1930 are:- Pulmonary, Males 24, Females 12. Non-pulmonary, Males 9, Females 8.

No case of Diphtheria, ophthalmia, neonatorum, or Puerperal pyrexia was notified during the year.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. One mild case, a child aged $3\frac{1}{4}$ years, occurred in the Poundbury Estate on November 7th., and was isolated in Weymouth Borough Isolation Hospital, until the 8th. December, when he was transferred for special treatment to the Bath & Wessex Orthopaedic Hospital.

MEASLES. A widespread epidemic occurred throughout the Borough between May and August inclusive. At first more especially in the Victoria Park Area, but later extending to the Town & East Fordington districts. The cases were mainly mild in nature.

SCARLET FEVER. Four cases were notified, two in June, one in September and one in October, all were children, and all mild cases. None were associated with any particular school or milk supply.

WHOOPIING COUGH. Seventeen Cases - including one adult, mainly children under 5 years of age, were notified from various parts of the Borough.

TUBERCULOSIS. One pulmonary case was a nurse at the Dorset County Hospital, the remaining cases were residents here.

SCABIES. Three cases were sent to Weymouth Cleansing Station for treatment. all from the Maternity & Child Welfare Centre.

IMMUNISATION against Diphtheria. From July 1948 the responsibility for the Immunisation of children has passed to the Dorset County Council. Clinics for children of under school age are held at monthly intervals at the Clinic, Glyde Path Road, Dorchester. The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following figures showing the number of children as at the 31st. December 1949 who had completed a course of primary diphtheria immunisation at any time before that date.

Estimated mid-year population 1949. Children 0-4 years. years.	Children under 5 years					
	Age at 31.12.49					
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	Total
889	-	96	279	91	46	512 57.60%

Estimated mid-year population 1949.	Children 5-15 years			Total number of children under 15 years immunised.
	Age at 31.12.49			
Children 5-15 years.	5-9	10-14	Total	
1533	451	566	1017 66.34%	1529 63.13%

VACCINATION. The County Medical Officer has kindly given the following figures, which show that a high percentage of children are still unprotected against smallpox.

Return showing the number of vaccination records received during the Year ended 31st. DECEMBER 1949

Under 1 year	1-4		5-14		15 or over		Total	
	P	R	P	R	P	R	Primary	Re-Vac.
15	39	1	1	3	1	19	56	23

MEAT INSPECTION

Certain premises in the Borough are still being used as Government Slaughter-houses by the Ministry of Food, and slaughtering takes place locally for the distribution of meat to the following areas :-

Dorchester Borough, Dorchester Rural District, Portland, Swanage, Wareham Borough, Wareham Rural District and Weymouth.

Assistance in the work of meat inspection has been given throughout the year by Inspectors from all but Wareham Rural District and their help is much appreciated. A Government Slaughter-house is established in the excepted area, and for this reason no local help has been requested.

During the year 341 visits have been paid to the Slaughter-houses and 13,409 animal carcasses have been examined, as follows:-

	<u>Bovines</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Goats</u>	<u>Total</u>
By Dorchester) Borough) Inspector)	1522	2069	4219	317	181	8,308
By Other Inspectors	2362	186	2390	116	47	5,101
	3884	2255	6609	433	228	13,409

The undermentioned quantities of meat and offal have been found to be unfit for human food and consequently condemned:-

	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Mutton</u>	<u>Pork</u>	<u>Veal</u>	<u>Goat- flesh</u>	<u>Offal</u>	<u>Total</u>
By Dorches- -ter.)	19,865	608	865	359	Nil	16,121	37,818
Boro' In- spectors)							
By Other Inspectors	29,280	563	921	219	Nil	34,629	65,612
	49,145	1,171	1,786	578	Nil	50,750	103,430

30 Tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lbs. was condemned owing to tuberculosis; 16 Tons 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 13 lbs. was unfit owing to various other diseases.

ANIMAL CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED - 1949

By Dorchester Borough Inspector

	<u>Cattle, exclud- ing cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	778	678	1961	3922	298
Number inspected	778	678	1961	3922	298
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	6	4	7	--
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	109	113	19	309	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	14.13%	17.55%	1.17%	8.05%	19.12%

Contd.	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	7. Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	16	1	--	3
Cases of which some part or organ was condemned	104	182	5	--	10
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.52%	29.20%	0.30%	--	4.36%
<u>Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933</u>					

Seven licences to slaughter animals under the above-named Act have been issued during the year.

Unsound Food

Additional food, as set out below, was found to be unsound and unfit for human food and was, therefore, condemned and destroyed or used for salvage purposes where possible :-

		Milk	-	365 Tins.	
Bacon	-	1 lb.	Flour	-	45 lbs.
Cereals	-	428 lbs.	Fruit	-	451 "
Cheese	-	15 "	Meat	-	1574 "
Crumpets	-	10 "	Meat Pies	-	48 "
Fish	-	983 "	Poultry	-	90 "
Fish-cakes	-	8 "	Vegetables	-	813 "

Total weight: 4,466 lbs. or 1 ton 19 cwts. 3 qtrs.
14 lbs.

FOOD POISONING. No case of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Milk

During the year 53 samples of milk as supplied to householders were taken; 31 of these satisfactorily passed the appropriate tests, 5 failed to pass the Bacillus Coli test only and 17 failed to pass both the Bacillus Coli and the Reductase tests.

The reports on all the samples taken have been submitted to the appropriate Committee who then gave instructions as to the action to be taken.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were granted by the Council :-

- 2 - For bottling Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 1 - Supplementary licence for Pastourised Milk.

By the introduction of The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on the 1st October, the registration of all persons carrying on the trade of dairy-farmer and of all dairy-farms was transferred from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

By "The Milk (Special Designation) (Pastourised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949" which came into operation on the 1st. October, the granting of licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pastourised" or "Sterilised" in relation to milk so treated on the premises of applicants, was placed in the hands of Food and Drugs Authorities within the meaning of Section 64 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Fees for licences under the new Regulations have been dispensed with.

Ice-cream

During the year 17 samples of Ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination, these being placed in the following Provisional Grades :-

Provisional Grade I	-	6)
Provisional Grade II	-	4) <u>Satisfactory</u>
Provisional Grade III	-	3)
Provisional Grade IV	-	4) Unsatisfactory

WATER

Almost the whole of the Borough is supplied from a well in the chalk forming the hill at the west side of the Town. The supply has been quite satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity, though reasonable restrictions were imposed during the exceptionally dry summer.

Fifty one samples of water taken at the Waterworks were bacteriologically tested during the year, every one of which proved satisfactory. Fifty four samples were taken from various points of delivery throughout the Borough, one was reported as unsatisfactory and one as suspicious, the remaining fifty-two were all satisfactory.

A sample was chemically analysed on 26th. September by Mr. G.V. James, 25. Poole Road, Bournemouth and was reported as a clear, bright odourless water, neutral in reaction, with a slight deposit on standing.

Free Carbon Dioxide as CO_2	4.5
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N.	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N.	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen as N. Less than	0.01
Nitric Nitrogen as N.	4.00
Hardness as Ca CO_3 Total	320
Temporary hardness	120
Permanent hardness	200
Poisonous metals	Absent
Free chlorine	Nil

The water is therefore hard in character but is considerably softened by boiling, and is suitable for all domestic purposes. The supply is constant and the water is not plumbo-solvent.

About 100 houses are supplied by taps outside the houses.

House Drainage

All new drainage work in connection with both Old and New Buildings has been supervised, examined and tested, and for this purpose 102 visits have been paid to various premises within the Borough.

House Repairs

During the year, 127 houses were inspected of which 56 were found to be unfit for human habitation in certain respects, and 56 formal notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, were issued in these cases.

In 16 cases the requisite work has not yet been carried out.

Isolation Hospital.

Since the 5th. July 1948, this hospital has been under the control of the West Dorset Group Hospitals Management Committee. I am informed that a few beds in one block are held in readiness in case of an outbreak of infectious disease, but it appears that it is uneconomical or inconvenient to use this accommodation for single sporadic cases. Arrangements have been made with the Region Board for the disinfection of bedding and clothing in the event of a case of small-pox or other infectious disease requiring this service. The charge of 10/6 is subject to this Council arranging the transport both ways, the West Dorset Group Hospitals Management Committee will then carry out the disinfection and provide the necessary personnel.

No infectious disease case was admitted from this Borough during this year.

National Health Service

Isolation of Infectious Cases. During the year one case of Acute Poliomyelitis (in November) and four cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, two in June, one in September and one in October. All these cases were moved out of this Borough to Weymouth Isolation Hospital, near Chickereil. This involved awkward journeys for the parents visiting their children, and

caused a good deal of dissatisfaction. Formerly these cases would have been admitted to the Dorchester Isolation Hospital, and none would have been sent to Weymouth until the Dorchester Hospital was full or in the event of unusual difficulty in obtaining adequate staff.

With regard to Non-infectious cases requiring hospital treatment there is considerable difficulty in getting cases into Damers House owing to bed shortage and other cases requiring urgent Hospital treatment are liable to be sent to Weymouth, Bridport or Sherborne. None of the Dorchester Ambulances are available at night time, so an ambulance has to come from Weymouth to move a Dorchester patient at night. These arrangements have also caused delay and discontent amongst the relatives of the patients.

Infectious Illness

17 rooms have been disinfected during the year and in 10 cases the infected bedding etc., has been removed for Steam disinfection; 117 articles have been so treated during the year and 7 other articles have been destroyed.

13 Notices were issued to school Superintendents concerning the exclusion or re-admission of scholars.

Summary of Complaints Received

Defective condition of houses	...	...	27
House drainage	...	...	9
Overcrowding	...	...	2
Animals kept in insanitary conditions	...	...	4
Rat or Mouse Infestations	...	...	16
Cockroaches	...	...	3
Bed-bugs	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	6

 70

Rodent Control

During the year 16 requests for assistance in the destruction of rats and mice were received and in all cases the premises were treated with a view to their destruction.

Pavement Nuisances

As previously reported, the nuisances caused by dogs continue unabated and no legal action appears to have been taken against the owners of these animals. The pathways and pavements throughout the Borough are constantly rendered unfit for use by the ratepayers. I have had complaints that even the grass verges in the Walks, where tiny infants like to run, are now quite unfit for them to use. So Infants have to go with reins while dogs are allowed to roam at will.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1938

During the year 51 licences for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit were issued together with 1 licence for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Ice-cream)

During the year 10 premises were registered for the sale of Ice-cream.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	<u>No. on Regis- ter</u>	<u>No. of Inspec- tions</u>	<u>No. of written Notices</u>	<u>No. of Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories (in which Sections 1-4 & 6 are enforced)	111	27	7	Nil

<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness	5	5	--	--
Sanitary Conveniences (unsuitable or defective)	4	4	--	--
<u>Outworkers</u>	31 manufacturers of wearing apparel.			

C.D. DAY, M.A., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

